(d) by when the AAI proposes to complete that work of upgradation of Rajkot airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Railway Authorities have agreed to transfer the land measuring 21 hectares (approx.) on lease for the development of Rajkot airport with the condition that Airports Authority of India (AAI) should rehabilitate the affected residential units and pay its market value. Railway Board has been requested to transfer the land at a concessional rate so that upgradation work remain viable. Upgradation works will be taken up depending upon the response of Indian Railways.

Overbooking of flights

1872. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of passengers of Air India's Mumbai-London-Chicago flights faced problems after they were offloaded as the plane was overbooked;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Air India's ticket booking system for a particular flight is not proper one, resulting inconvenience to several passengers who booked tickets in advance; and

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to investigate the matter and take corrective steps so that the passengers are not harassed in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) 37 passengers had to be offloaded on flight AI-125 of 8th January, 2008 operating on Mumbai-London-Chicago sector due to overbooking.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As per international industry practice, airlines overbook their flights to optimize utilization of capacity, as all passengers booked on a flight do not turn up at the airport. However, at times more passengers than expected do turn up and the airline has no option but to resort to offloading. However, for passengers holding tickets, paid in Indian Rupees, for destinations to USA, UK and Europe, compensation is granted in the form of a Miscellaneous Charges Order (MCO), which can be used for future transportation.

Study on aviation emission

1873. SHRI DHARAM PAL SUBHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a detailed and comprehensive aviation emission study in Civil Aviation Sector to gauge the level of harmful gases and environmental impact arising out of rapidly expanding aviation sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and